

Fourth, He harmonizes, rightens our relations or justifies us (all these terms apply equally well) by making a common meeting point. God cannot come to us and we cannot come to Him. But He has set Jesus the Christ to be the "propitiation" for us. The word translated "propitiation" in Romans is the same word which everywhere else in the Bible is translated "mercy seat". So Jesus has become to man the "mercy seat", the place where the glory of the Lord is manifest and where God meets His people. God has now completed his part of the process of making this rightness available to man. Man's life may be rightened or adjusted, or to use the more misty Bible term, "justified", by his coming to the mercy seat which God has set, namely Christ Jesus.

Fifth, by accepting Christ through faith all the possibilities of God's rightness become available to us. Faith in Christ is the touch-stone which turns all the dross of our nature into pure gold. We come to this mercy seat where God can meet us and our lives feel the effect of the contact. Pass an ordinary piece of iron over a magnet and it becomes at once magnetized and will in turn effect other pieces of iron. Hold a magnet over a lot of nails or iron filings and they adhere to it tenaciously. So with man and God. Let man approach God through his agency which He has set and his whole nature and being feel the influence of the contact. In Christ dwelt all the fullness of the Godhead bodily and when we come to Christ we come into contact with God. Christ is human on the manward side and divine on the Godward side. Faith is the power which brings the man to this mercy seat. It is the spiritual faculty which compels the man to take Christ into his nature. It takes up the man and compels him, as it were, against his wishes, reason, inclination and best judgment to come to this mercy seat to lay hold of Christ. Just so soon as he does so he is "justified" or rightened. God's righteousness comes into his life and it takes the place of his unrighteousness. This is the true sense of being justified. But some one will say, "How is it done? How can God's

righteousness take the place of our unrighteousness?" This is the profoundest secret of all earth and Heaven. How does a soul pass from death unto life? How does a body pass from life unto death? Tell me what physical death is and I will tell you what spiritual birth is. The *how* need not stagger us. The *fact* exists. God's righteousness *does* come into the lives of men and women and has been doing so for eighteen hundred years and continues to do so. That is the *fact*. There is no fact in history or science more absolutely certain than that faith in God through Jesus Christ will change a man's life. It is a fact known of all men. Drunkards reformed, fallen women reclaimed, infidels changed, all, everywhere, testify to and demonstrate the fact that faith brings God into our lives. We may question and endeavor to solve the mystery and our questionings and endeavors are not in themselves wrong. But when we refuse to accept the *fact* as evidence because we cannot understand all the intricacies of its production our conclusions are puerile and untenable. No man refuses to ride on the electric cars because he does not understand all about the mechanism. Not ten per cent. of the people who ride on such lines can explain the action of the electric fluid from the time of its generation until it is applied in such a way as to drive the car along. No man living can explain and demonstrate what the electric fluid itself is. It is an entirely unknown something demonstrable only by its effects. We are in the blindest of ignorance about it and yet no man questions its existence and effects, and no man waits for an explanation. The simple fact stands that the *car moves*. It has moved, it does move, and the clear presumption is that it will continue to move, though no one can explain the *rationale*. Only an ignoramus or lunatic would hesitate to get on board because no one could explain to its ultimatum just what electricity is and just how it operates. So in this matter of faith bringing God's rightness, to make right or just our unrightness. It has done it, it does do it, and the fair and honest presumption is that it will continue to do it. It is just as sensible to stay off the electric cars until we understand the *modus oper-*

andi as it is to refuse to accept God's righteousness as offered in Christ because we do not and cannot understand how it acts. No chemical reaction is demonstrable except by its results, and yet no one questions that chemical reactions take place. One may stand and study and watch forever and he will see no element or combination in its nascent state. But yet we know by their effects that elements do exist in a nascent state and a whole science is built upon this deduction from known results. The man who will not believe that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ has power to bring a new element into a man's life to straighten and correct and harmonize, simply shuts his eyes to the facts in the case and says, "I do not believe what I see. These people are all deceivers, being deceived themselves. I know it is not so, because I can not understand how it can be." He knows, if he knows anything about chemistry, that muriatic acid and black oxide of manganese will remain in contact forever without any result unless heat is applied; when however, they are heated, chlorine gas is given off most abundantly. Tell me why heat induces chemical reaction and I will tell you how the blood of Jesus Christ "cleanseth us from all unrighteousness." The fact exists in each case that it does and the man who believes the one, is by the same process of reasoning bound to accept the other. Our lives are made right through faith in Jesus Christ and in no other way.

#### STARVATION.

Thousands of the poor in New York and Brooklyn are suffering the most appalling destitution. They are freezing and starving. Families which heretofore have been in comfortable circumstances are destitute of everything, and strong men,—who were never reduced to such straits before, are begging bread for their starving children. Gigantic charities have been organized to relieve the distress. The great New York dailies, particularly the World and the Herald, are leading in this work. They are distributing bread and clothing in vast quantities. What a fearful condition of things this exhibits in the beginning of winter. What horrors will the tenement sections of those great cities witness during the coming months. How thankful ought we to be that our lot is cast in a better country, far removed from the hunger and squalor of the crowded metropolis.—*The Advocate, Buena Vista, Va.*